Amendments To The Claims

1. Cancelled

2. (Currently amended). An optical filter comprising at least three retarders, the at least three retarders causing optical rotation to light of a first spectrum substantially without introducing composite retardation, ~~The filter of claim 1,~~ wherein the at least three retarders are isotropic to light of a second spectrum.

3. (Original). The filter of claim 2, further comprising:

a bias retarder,

wherein the bias retarder and the at least three retarders have about a half wave of retardation.

4. (Original). The filter of claim 3, wherein the filter is an achromatic half wave retarder in the first spectrum and in the second spectrum.

5. (Original). The filter of claim 3, wherein the filter has a substantially wavelength stable eigenpolarization.

6. Cancelled.

7. (Currently amended) An optical filter comprising at least three retarders, the at least three retarders causing optical rotation to light of a first spectrum substantially without introducing composite retardation, ~~The filter of claim 1,~~ wherein the optical rotation of the at least three retarders is achromatic in the first spectrum.

8. (Currently amended) An optical filter comprising at least three retarders, the at least three retarders causing optical rotation to light of a first spectrum substantially without introducing composite retardation, ~~The filter of claim 1,~~ wherein the at least three retarders have a substantially wavelength stable eigenpolarization.

9. (Currently amended) An optical filter comprising:

at least three retarders, the at least three retarders causing optical rotation to light of a first spectrum substantially without introducing composite retardation; and

~~The filter of claim 1, further comprising~~ a first beam splitter in optical series with the at least three retarders.

10 (Original). The filter of claim 9, wherein the first beam splitter is a polarizing beam splitter.

11 (Original). The filter of claim 9, wherein the first beam splitter is a dichroic beam splitter.

12 (Original). The filter of claim 9, wherein the first beam splitter is a partially metallized mirror beam splitter.

13 (Original). The filter of claim 9, further comprising a second beam splitter in optical series with the at least three retarders and the first beam splitter.

14. (Currently amended). An optical filter comprising:

at least three retarders, the at least three retarders causing optical rotation to light of a first spectrum substantially without introducing composite retardation; and

~~The filter of claim 1, further comprising:~~

a first beam splitter and a second beam splitter[[;]][[;]]

wherein the at least three retarders are between the first beam splitter and the second beam splitter; and

wherein skew light ray polarization effects of the first beam splitter are offset by skew light ray polarization effects of the at least three retarders and the second beam splitter.

15. (Original). The filter of claim 14, wherein the first beam splitter and the second beam splitter have a common normal vector.

16. (Currently amended). An optical filter comprising at least three retarders, the at least three retarders causing optical rotation to light of a first spectrum substantially without introducing composite retardation, ~~The filter of claim 1,~~ wherein the at least three retarders further include[[s]] a bias retarder to make a retardation of the at least three retarders have substantially no retardation.

17-31. Withdrawn

32-33. Cancelled

34. (Currently amended) An optical filtering method comprising optically rotating light of a first spectrum without introducing composite retardation, wherein the optically rotating is performed by three or more retarders and ~~The method of claim 33,~~ wherein the three or more retarders are achromatic in the first spectrum.

35. (Currently amended) An optical filtering method comprising optically rotating light of a first spectrum without introducing composite retardation, wherein the optically rotating is performed by three or more retarders and ~~The method of claim 33,~~ wherein the three or more retarders have a substantially wavelength stable eigenpolarization.

36. (Currently amended) An optical filtering method comprising:

optically rotating light of a first spectrum without introducing composite retardation, wherein the optically rotating is performed by three or more retarders; and

~~The method of claim 33, further comprising~~ separating light into two different paths.

37. (Previously amended). The method of claim 36, wherein the separating is according to polarization.

38. (Previously amended). The method of claim 36, wherein the separating is according to light wavelength.

39. (Previously amended). An optical filtering method, the method comprising:

a first separating of light into two different paths;

a second separating of light into two different paths; and

optically rotating light of a first spectrum without introducing composite retardation,

wherein the optically rotating occurs after the first separating but before the second separating such the optical rotating is substantially independent of skew ray direction.

40. (Previously amended). An optical filtering method, the method comprising:

optically rotating light of a first spectrum without introducing composite retardation; and transmitting light of a second spectrum unaltered.

41. Cancelled.

42-49. Withdrawn

50-53. Cancelled

54. (Original) An optical arrangement comprising:

a planar polarizer;

a beam splitter; and

an out-of-plane retarder between the planar polarizer and the beam splitter.

55. (Previously amended) The arrangement of claim 54, wherein the out-of-plane retarder is a color selective polarizing filter.

56. (Previously amended). The arrangement of claim 54, wherein the planar polarizer has a transmission axis parallel or perpendicular to a plane containing an optic axis of the out-of-plane retarder.

57. (Previously amended). The arrangement of claim 54, wherein the beam splitter is a polarizing beam splitter.

58. (Previously amended). A method of filtering light, the steps of the method comprising:

polarizing an incident light beam to form a polarized light beam;

retarding the polarized light beam with an out-of-plane retarder to form a retarded light beam; and splitting the retarded light beam.

59 (Previously amended). The method of claim 58, wherein the out-of-plane retarder is a color selective polarizing filter.